

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2000-597-C - ORDER NO. 2001-301

APRIL 10, 2001

IN RE: Joint Application of LS Communications, Inc.) ORDER APPROVING
and Columbia Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a) AGREEMENT
Axessa for Approval of Agreement and Plan)
of Merger and Reorganization)

LS Communications, Inc. (LS Communications) and Columbia Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Axessa (Axessa) (collectively known as the two companies) filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for approval of a prepackaged bankruptcy purchase agreement whereby all existing shares of issued and outstanding Axessa stock will be cancelled and ownership of the business of a corporation known as Axessa will be transferred to LS Communications. LS Communications will become the sole shareholder of Axessa. After the transaction, Axessa will continue to operate as it currently operates, but will become a wholly owned subsidiary of LS Communications.

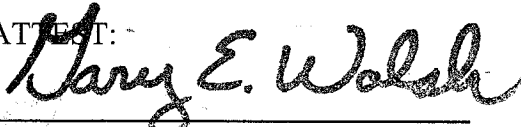
Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, the two companies published a Notice of Filing, one time, in newspapers of general circulation. The two companies followed the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, and filed affidavits of publication as well. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed. Accordingly, the two companies requested expedited review of the Application and filed the verified testimony of Eric E. Lindstrom, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of LS

Communications, in support of the Application. We grant expedited review, and hold that our Tuesday agenda session constitutes the “due hearing” required by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-310 (Supp. 2000). We will now proceed to consider the verified testimony of Mr. Lindstrom.

Lindstrom notes that Axessa is certified in South Carolina, whereas LS Communications holds no such authority. According to Lindstrom, the practical effect of the agreement will be the transfer of ownership of Axessa to LS with LS becoming the sole shareholder of Axessa. All of the issued and outstanding shares of Axessa stock will be cancelled and new stock will be issued in the name of LS Communications. After the transaction, Axessa will continue to operate as it currently operates, but will be a wholly owned subsidiary of LS Communications. Axessa will continue to operate as a regulated entity pursuant to its present certifications, registrations, tariff requirements and rate structures. Lindstrom states that the acquisition will be seamless and transparent to the customers of Axessa.

We have examined the Application, Motion and verified testimony and hold that the public interest mandates approval of said Application as filed. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ATTEST:


Executive Director
(SEAL)



Chairman